

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled).
2. (cancelled).
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein each indicia-bearing face is perpendicular to another indicia-bearing face.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the type of reading indicia is selected from the group consisting of: vowels, consonants, pictures, initial consonants, rimes, "magic" es, consonant combinations, vowel combinations, affixes, root words, nouns, noun endings, pronouns, verbs, verb endings, adjectives, adjective endings, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, and punctuation marks.
5. (cancelled).
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the indicia-bearing faces are co-planar when the selected blocks are connected.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the selected blocks are connected frictionally.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the consonant combinations are selected from the group consisting of initial blends, final blends, consonant digraphs, and word endings.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the vowel combinations are selected from the group consisting of vowel digraphs, diphthongs, and *r*-controlled vowels.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the consonants are selected from the group consisting of the uppercase and lowercase consonants.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the affixes are selected from the group consisting of prefixes and suffixes.

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the root words are selected from the group consisting of Greek roots, Latin roots, and English base words.

15 - 42. (cancelled)

43. (previously presented) A method of teaching and learning reading using a group of universally connectable blocks, wherein the group includes at least two blocks of different colors, wherein each of said blocks comprises at least three faces, all of said faces of each block bearing a type of reading indicia, the color and the type of reading indicia being the same on all of said faces of any one block, and wherein all blocks of the same color have the same type of reading indicia and each type of reading indicia has a unique color assigned thereto, the method comprising:

- (a) selecting a first and a second block from said group of universally connectable blocks, said selecting based solely on the reading indicia or the color of the blocks;

- (b) selecting any indicium-bearing face of said first block and any indicium-bearing face of said second block;
- (c) connecting said first block and said second block so that the connected blocks are horizontally adjacent and the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; and
- (d) viewing the color or selected indicia of said connected blocks to determine whether said indicia appear together to form an intelligible reading unit.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising rotating at least one of the first and second blocks to align any other indicium-bearing face of one of the two blocks with any indicium-bearing face of the other of said two blocks.

45. (cancelled).

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein each of said blocks has a female end and a male end, and wherein said male end of one block is connectable only to a female end of another block, such that said connecting step involves connecting either a male or female end of said first block with the female or male end, respectively, of said second block.

47. (previously presented) A method of teaching and learning reading using a group of universally connectable blocks, wherein the group includes at least two blocks bearing different reading indicia, wherein each of said blocks comprises at least three faces, all of said faces of each block bearing a type of reading indicia, the color and the type of reading indicia being the same on all of said faces of any one block, wherein all blocks of the same color have the same

type of reading indicia and each type of reading indicia has a unique color assigned thereto, the method comprising:

- (a) choosing an intelligible reading unit to be assembled from two or more of said group of universally connectable blocks;
- (b) selecting first and second blocks from said group of blocks, said selecting based solely on the reading indicia or the color of the blocks;
- (c) selecting an indicium-bearing face of said first block and an indicium-bearing face of said second block;
- (d) connecting said first selected block and said second selected block so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction;
- (e) viewing said connected blocks to determine from said indicia or color of said connected blocks whether the chosen intelligible reading unit has been assembled on said selected indicia-bearing faces and if the chosen intelligible reading unit has been assembled, stopping the method;
- (f) if said connected blocks do not form the chosen intelligible reading unit, then
 - (1) disconnecting one or more of said blocks and rotating at least one of said disconnected blocks so that at least one of the three selected indicia-bearing faces is different from the previously selected faces and reconnecting said blocks so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; or

- (2) disconnecting one or more of said blocks and connecting said disconnected blocks in a different order so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; or
- (3) selecting at least one additional block from the group of universally connectable blocks and connecting said additional block to one or more of said previously connected blocks so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; or
- (4) repeating steps (b) through (e) with previously unselected first and second blocks; and
- (g) repeating step (f) until the chosen intelligible reading unit has been assembled on said selected indicia-bearing faces.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein said connected blocks are horizontally adjacent.

49. (previously presented) A method of teaching and learning reading using a group of universally connectable blocks and a primer having intelligible reading units composed of reading indicia, wherein the group includes at least two blocks of different colors, wherein each of said blocks comprises at least three faces, all of said faces bearing a type of reading indicia, the color and the type of reading indicia being the same on all of said faces of any one block, wherein all blocks of the same color have the same type of reading indicia and each type of reading indicia has a unique color assigned thereto, and wherein at least one of the reading

indicia in the primer is colored to correspond to the color of the blocks bearing the same type of reading indicia,

the method comprising:

- (a) reading the primer;
- (b) reading selected reading indicia in the primer;
- (c) locating blocks having the selected reading indicia;
- (d) reading an intelligible reading unit comprised of the selected reading indicia in the primer;
- (e) assembling the selected reading indicia to form the intelligible reading unit by:
 - (i) selecting a first and a second block from said group of universally connectable blocks having the identified reading indicia;
 - (ii) connecting said first block and said second block so that the connected blocks are horizontally adjacent and the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; and
 - (iii) viewing the color or selected indicia of said connected blocks to determine whether said indicia appear together to form the selected intelligible reading unit.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the reading is aloud.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the reading is silent.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the selected intelligible reading unit is used to answer questions in the primer.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the selected intelligible reading unit is used to complete sentences in the primer.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein step (a) comprises reading a story.

55. (previously presented) A method of teaching and learning reading using a group of universally connectable blocks and a primer, wherein the group includes at least two blocks of different colors, wherein each of said blocks comprises at least three faces, all of said faces of each block bearing a type of reading indicia, the color and the type of reading indicia being the same on all of said faces of any one block, wherein all blocks of the same color have the same type of reading indicia and each type of reading indicia has a unique color assigned thereto, and wherein the primer has intelligible reading units comprised of reading indicia, and at least one of the reading indicia is colored to correspond to the color of the blocks bearing the same type of reading indicia, the method comprising:

- (a) reading the primer;
- (b) reading selected reading indicia in the primer;
- (c) locating a group of blocks having the selected reading indicia;
- (d) reading an intelligible reading unit comprised of two or more of the selected reading indicia in the primer;
- (e) assembling the selected reading indicia to form the intelligible reading unit by:
 - (i) selecting first and second blocks from said group of blocks, said selecting based solely on the reading indicia of the blocks;

- (ii) selecting an indicium-bearing face of said first block and an indicium-bearing face of said second block;
- (iii) connecting said first selected block and said second selected block so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction;
- (iv) viewing said connected blocks to determine from said indicia or color of said connected blocks whether the chosen intelligible reading unit has been assembled on said selected indicia-bearing faces and if the chosen intelligible reading unit has been assembled, stopping the method;
- (f) if said connected blocks do not form the chosen intelligible reading unit, then
 - (1) disconnecting one or more of said blocks and rotating at least one of said disconnected blocks so that at least one of the three selected indicia-bearing faces is different from the previously selected faces and reconnecting said blocks so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; or
 - (2) disconnecting one or more of said blocks and connecting said disconnected blocks in a different order so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; or
 - (3) selecting at least one additional block from the group of universally connectable blocks and connecting said additional block to one or more of said

previously connected blocks so that the selected indicia-bearing faces of each block are visible from the same direction; or

(4) repeating steps (b) through (e) with previously unselected first and second blocks; and

(g) repeating step (f) until the chosen intelligible reading unit has been assembled on said selected indicia-bearing faces.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising using a flipbook to teach and learn reading, the flipbook including instructions for (1) selecting blocks and (2) directing the connection of the selected blocks so that the blocks form an intelligible reading unit.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the reading is aloud.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the reading is silent.

59-66. (cancelled).